

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2005

From: Jhana Enders

To: R6 PolRep TX, Response and Prevention Branch Ragan Broyles, Response and Prevention Branch
Debbie Dietrich, Office of Emergency Management

Subject: Krum Mercury

333 W. Lake Street, Krum, TX

Latitude: 33.2586000

Longitude: -97.2375000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	06ZC
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	4/13/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	4/13/2005	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	TXN000606603	Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

The National Response Center notified EPA (NRC Report #755445) on 11 April 2005 that a small bottle of suspected nitroglycerin had been detonated in Krum, Texas by the Denton County Bomb Squad. The material was later determined to be mercury. The detonation occurred in the parking lot of Krum City Hall. Bales of hay were stacked around the bottle to dampen the explosion. Upon realization of the identity of the contents, the City of Krum Fire Department was contacted to collect the explosion containment debris. Six hay bales were placed in plastic bags and approximately 70 pounds of mercury contaminated asphalt aggregate was collected and placed in a drum. The items were then stored in the Krum Fire Department fire engine bay.

Current Activities

Per decision by the Superfund Division Director, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), Jhana Enders and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-2) contractor mobilized on 13 April 2005 to assess site conditions and provide air monitoring and/or other technical assistance as needed. Upon arrival, a debriefing was acquired and included the EPA, Krum Fire Chief/Police/City Council Members, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and START-2 contractors. After the debriefing, EPA representatives were dispatched to the Krum City Hall parking lot to conduct air monitoring. Air monitoring was conducted with an RA-915+ Lumex Mercury Analyzer. Elevated mercury levels were detected at several areas in the parking lot. On the ground where the explosion occurred, mercury levels exceeding 100,000ng/m³ were detected. Visible mercury was also observed in the parking lot. Due to the elevated levels in the parking lot, additional monitoring was conducted inside the City Hall building but revealed no elevated mercury levels. The parking lot was secured by local police to reduce any spread of potential contamination. Monitoring was also conducted inside the Krum Fire Station where the drum and six bagged bales of hay were being stored. No elevated levels were detected inside the Fire Station. The drum and bags of hay were moved outside and secured. Monitoring of the drum and bags of hay also detected elevated levels of mercury. Mercury levels of the containment debris were in excess of 65,000 ng/m³. The primary concern is the potential to track mercury from the parking lot. The primary concern is the potential to track mercury from the parking lot to inhabited areas where vapors could pose a health threat.

Planned Removal Actions

The EPA will coordinate with the owners of the residence from where the mercury originated in order to monitor the home for mercury contamination.

Next Steps

The EPA will coordinate with the City of Krum Fire Department, and the Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality in preparation for cleanup of the parking lot and disposal of the material at the Krum fire station.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/krummercury